CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT
in the
Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Including Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector
for
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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	52
Rateable Value (1.4.61)	£431,736
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,700
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (1.4.61)	14,183
Estimated mid-year Home Population	43,970
Census Population 1961	44,341

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	18.6
(Corrected)	19.7
Death Rate	11.1
(Corrected)	10.0
Infant Mortality Rate	20.7

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Captain F. Johnson, J.P.
From 7th August: Councillor P. F. King, M.A., M.B.E.
Vice-Chairman: Councillor F. W. Flinders.

Councillors:

B. H. Abel
H. Allgood
W. H. Austin
R. Barker
Mrs. M. Brown
C. W. H. Cole
H. G. Currington
Revd. B. F. Dupre (elected 10th Jan. 1961)
F. W. Flinders
Col. J. C. Francis
Mrs. E. W. E. Hartley
P. N. J. Hopkins
Mrs. M. Hurrell
J. Jopling
Mrs. M. V. V. Lewin
G. M. Macfarlane-Grieve
P. H. Mander
M. A. Manning
D. F. R. Missen (elected 6th December, 1960)
Maj. Gen. T. C. Newton
C. A. Norman
S. C. Parker
M. S. Pease
Mrs. M. Peel-Yates
Mrs. D. Pemberton
T. B. Robinson
W. F. Robinson
J. E. Smith
H. K. Stroude
Revd. A. B. Swallow
R. W. Thulborn
C. H. Tilbrook
Mrs. D. Turkentine
H. G. Waddelow
D. L. Walker
E. J. Walkling
J. G. Watson
S. W. Wilkin
Mrs. M. M. Wolfe (elected 4th April, 1961)
S. L. C. Wordingham

Staff:

Medical Officer of Health — J. Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector — E. B. Newman, A.R.S.H., F.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.
District Inspectors — N. D. Addison, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.
— J. Holford, M.R.S.H.
Clerk — Mrs. M. O. Good; From 7th June, Miss J. Wilson.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1960 prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 3/61 dated 10th April, 1961.

Vital Statistics

During 1960, the population of the district increased by almost 1,000. This, an increase of over 2%, is greater than that of the previous years and is the direct result of the great amount of housing development mainly in the nexus villages. At the time of writing, the preliminary report of the 1961 census became available and it reveals just how startling the population increase has been. Over the ten intercensal years there has been a 14.7% increase in the population of the district. This compares favourably with the 13.8% increase of the whole county and 5.3% national increase.

The birth rate increased slightly from 18.3 to 18.6 per thousand—a figure above the national rate of 17.1 and the death rate fell slightly from 11.3 to 11.1. Although the infant mortality rate rose from 12.7 to 20.7 it still remained below the national rate of 21.7.

Infectious Diseases

Although the total number of cases of infectious disease notified fell greatly, the preponderance of gastro-intestinal infections entailed a tremendous amount of additional work.

At the start and at the end of the year outbreaks of sonne dysentery occurred in Waterbeach. To have two distinct major outbreaks of dysentery in one village within a year and with no discovered connection and no spread to other parts of the district is, to say the least, unusual. The first outbreak, although with fewer total cases, took longer to bring to a conclusion and it might be surmised that the community learned by experience how to help in the control of an epidemic. In this respect the local school worked hard to try to limit the spread amongst the pupils and every praise must be given to the staff. Enforcing strict personal hygiene amongst small children who come from widely varying backgrounds is extremely difficult. We were greatly helped by the head teacher of the school notifying the investigating public health inspector of new absences from school each day and enabling at least a day to be saved in the investigation of new cases which would have been lost if normal notification had been carried out. The major part in investigating all cases and advising on hygienic measures of control devolved on to Mr. N. D. Addison and I have only unqualified praise for the way he carried out this tiring and time-consuming task.

Perhaps the most interesting fact to emerge from these outbreaks was the unpredictability of the response to treatment. The known sensitivity of the shigella to certain anti-biotics seemed to bear no relationship to the production of a consistently uninfected stool or even the cessation of clinical symptoms.

The third major outbreak occurred at Fulbourn Hospital. All hospitals, and in particular mental hospitals, are prone to these types of outbreaks and it is a great consolation that, when such an outbreak occurs, all the staff at Fulbourn Hospital, medical, nursing, catering and others are ready and willing to co-operate on any measures necessary. On this occasion the outbreak was caused by salmonella typhimurium—an organism commonly associated with food poisoning. Although the widespread nature of the initial infection suggested that it might have been food borne, it was impossible to show that any food or foods had been infected. Only one member of the catering staff ever submitted an infected specimen and even this was some time after the start of the outbreak and never recurred. Among the many lessons learned during the controlling of this outbreak were, the necessity for constant vigilance in catering establishments, the value of regular progress bulletins to staff enabling them to see how their efforts are helping—or otherwise—to control an epidemic and the degree of co-operation that can be obtained from even severely disturbed patients.

A study is being carried out to try and estimate the financial cost—albeit very approximately—of this outbreak by costing the time spent by the many people involved in its control and the materials used. It would seem to amount to several thousand pounds—a large price to pay for someone's carelessness.

Sanitary Circumstances

From the figures given in the body of the report it would seem that the slum clearance programme is in the doldrums and the exhilarating progress of previous years has not been maintained. There are many reasons for this, such as the large number of owner-occupiers or old people living in very poor properties and who are reluctant to move, but the main reason is the necessity to relate the closing of houses to the building of new council houses. The number built this year has been, of necessity, low. When one considers the enormous amount of private building work going on in this and surrounding districts, it is not difficult to understand why a local authority finds it difficult to recruit staff and labour.

There are many difficulties in estimating and predicting the future housing needs of an area such as this with an ever-increasing population and one is that of assessing what are people's true needs and what are just wishes. If a newcomer moves into the area into poor housing and then asks for a council house is he to be accepted as a genuine candidate to be considered with the already existing applicants or should he be left to fend for himself? There is always a tendency for the old-established resident to look upon the new immigrant as something of an intruder—especially if the newcomer tries to compete for the limited available housing—but if a community is to remain vigorous and active it must be ready to assimilate new blood, even if this means changes. One has only to look at those communities where the young people are leaving and population figures decreasing to see the obverse side of the coin and recognise our good fortune.

One result of the population influx has been the increase in caravan dwellers throughout the area. At one time it was felt that caravan dwelling was solely the result of housing shortage but it is now apparent that an appreciable number of families live in caravans from preference. The new caravan legislation—The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960—will go a long way to securing improved conditions on many sites, although its enforcement will mean many battles for the public health department. However, it will also cause many unsatisfactory site operators to give up their licences and thereby worsen the present shortage of good caravan sites.

The expanding community, besides bringing its blessings, brings many problems and not the least of these are concerned with water supplies. It has been apparent for some time that major capital works were necessary in many parts of the area but the impending regrouping of water undertakings has, unfortunately, led to the delay of any improvement schemes for several years. It is clearly impracticable for one area to start on works which might be quite wasted when the areas are combined and a comprehensive policy developed. The prospect of regrouping is little comfort to people in those areas where there is a periodic water shortage, however. There are four main causes for these shortages, firstly the age of many water mains, secondly the great amount of new building, thirdly improvements being made to existing housing with the installation of hot water systems and water carriage sewerage systems and fourthly, but by far the most important, the tremendous growth in irrigation. In spite of the many jokes made about the British Climate, it has been shown that irrigation at the correct time can greatly increase the return of fruit, flower and vegetable growers. This, combined with the greatly increased use of glasshouses, has made the demand for water at certain times more than many mains can carry or pumps deliver. As this demand for water is here to stay and will form an essential part of the rural economy it will have to be met by an extensive programme of mains laying and the construction of storage reservoirs.

Hand in hand with the improvement of village water supplies goes the necessity for the development of village sewerage schemes. The authority has little to be ashamed of in its record but a tremendous amount still needs to be done to give the villagers the standard of amenity they have every right to expect in the near future. At the end of the year the council accepted the challenge presented, not only by already existing needs, but also by the new problems being created by the rapidly expanding nexus villages. The adopted programme is estimated to cost £1,000,000 and to take ten years to complete. One can only hope that the financial limitations of the national economy will not hinder its fruition.

River Pollution

It has long been local custom to bathe in the River Cam but investigations made during the year showed that there was a considerable amount of bacteriological pollution. From old records it was apparent that the amount of pollution had increased in recent years and although no disease could be attributed to bathing in the river it was decided to post notices advising the public that the river was unfit for bathing. This produced a considerable amount of local comment both in the press and on television and the question was raised about action to remedy the pollution. Before any action could possibly be taken, however, long term investigations will have to be done to determine whether there are any remedial sources of pollution or whether this amenity has been lost from the Cam as it has been lost from many other rivers throughout the country.

On the 7th August, 1960, Captain F. Johnson, J.P., Chairman of the Public Health Committee and one of the great personalities of the Council, died. His loss will be mourned by councillors and officers alike. For many years his intimate knowledge of the district has been of great value to the officers in the public health department. He is greatly missed.

1960 has been a busy year for the Public Health Department and I can find nothing but praise for all members of the department. There is an idea, widely held, that by improving the housing standards and putting main drainage into an area, the need for sanitary public health will lessen. One need only compare the number of visits carried out by the public health inspectors in 1960 with 1959 to show the fallacy of this.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DRUMMOND.

September, 1961.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

Live Births

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	386	407	793
Illegitimate	12	14	26
Totals	398	421	819

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	18.6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.06)	19.7
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	17.1

Still Births

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	4	7	11
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	5	7	12

Rate per thousand live and still births	14.4
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	19.7

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Deaths	245	235	480

Death rate per thousand estimated population	11.1
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.90)	10.0
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	11.5

Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	12 (11)	5 (2)	17 (13)
Illegitimate	—	—	
Totals	12 (11)	5 (2)	17 (13)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets: all were under one week of age.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	20.7
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	21.7
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	15.8
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	15.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate. (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	30.1
Legitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	21.4
Illegitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.3%
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	90
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	6
Deaths from whooping cough	Nil
Deaths from measles	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	23
Deaths from influenza	5
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
***Birth Rate**	15.4	15.7	17.7	17.6	18.3	18.6
***Death Rate**	11.3	12.0	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.1
Infant Mortality Rate	11.3	18.6	13.5	24.1	12.7	20.7
	(7)	(12)	(10)	(18)	(10)	(17)

*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

Ages	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Under 1 year	12	6	18
1 and under 2	—	1	1
2 and under 5	1	—	1
5 and under 15	4	1	5
15 and under 25	11	—	11
25 and under 35	6	2	8
35 and under 45	5	6	11
45 and under 55	13	8	21
55 and under 65	38	31	69
65 and under 75	63	49	112
75 and over	92	131	223
Totals	245	235	480

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

" The Cambridgeshire United District (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1951 " provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils.

Under the present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. E. B. Newman remains as Chief Public Health Inspector with Mr. N. D. Addison and Mr. J. Holford to assist him.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertakes bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cambridge. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with the Papworth Village Settlement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1960

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was very much reduced in 1959 as there had been no repetition of the 1959 measles epidemic. It is apparent from the trend of notifications that it seemed likely that measles outbreaks were going to continue in their traditional biennial cycle. Of the other types of infectious disease two outbreaks of dysentery at Waterbeach and one of Salmonellosis in Fulbourn Hospital entailed a considerable amount of work and caused a degree of local disturbance amongst the involved populations.

Dysentery

The first cases of dysentery at Waterbeach had developed before Christmas 1959, but with the rush of seasonal festivities local practitioners only became aware of the condition after several days, during which time, with the great deal of social intercourse of Christmas, conditions were ideal for the spread of the disease.

During the next three months new cases were being notified or being discovered throughout the village. In all some 53 cases were notified and bacteriologically confirmed. Of these, 5 were severely ill, 11 were moderately ill, 29 had only mild symptoms and 8 had no clinical symptoms but were found to be bacteriologically positive. 8 of the cases were children under school age, 26 school age children and 19 people over school age. Of the 22 families involved many were service families or had a member of the family working in the nearby R.A.F. Station and there were several food handlers.

It is impossible to say how the initial infection entered the community but once this became established every effort was made to limit the spread by immediate follow-up of every case by the public health inspector—assisted by a school nurse. A strict routine of personal hygiene was enforced in the local school and any absences were immediately notified by the head teacher and the public health inspector who visited daily. This enabled an immediate investigation to be carried out—often before even the family doctor had called. Because of the continual appearance of new cases, in spite of the precautions taken, and because there had been a general increase in the amount of dysentery notified nationally over the past years, a circular letter (Appendix 1) was sent to all general practitioners asking them to keep the diagnosis in the front of their minds.

The co-operation of the general practitioners in the infected village was obtained to investigate the results of the different methods of treatment given. Bearing in mind the wide variation in symptoms, the many types of drug given, and the relatively small number of cases, no one method of treatment could be shown to produce bacteriological cure more speedily. No cases became bacteriologically cured in under two weeks whilst all were cleared by eight weeks. Also, no relationship was discovered between age or sex to the severity of symptoms and the time before stools became consistently negative. It was not until the end of April that the last case was discharged from supervision. No cases were notified elsewhere than in this village throughout the whole of this period.

A few further sporadic cases of dysentery occurred throughout the district during the year (including one case in Waterbeach in May).

Early in November a school child in Waterbeach was notified and confirmed as having dysentery and this was the start of a further outbreak in the same village. This child was a member of a family which had been infected during the previous outbreak, although she herself had had bacteriologically negative stools.

During the next two months—until the end of the year—a further 71 cases were notified in 30 families. 16 cases were under 5 years of age, 35 were school age children and 20 were over school age. The types of families were largely similar to those infected in the earlier epidemic and indeed many cases were re-infections. However, the community had, by reason of its previous outbreak, become very epidemic conscious and there was less delay in the calling for medical aid and the subsequent investigations. This, coupled with the advent of the school holidays, helped to terminate the outbreak more speedily than before, although the total number of cases was, in fact, greater.

Salmonellosis

On August 3rd, two patients in Fulbourn Hospital developed a salmonella typhirmurium infection and were the first casualties in an outbreak in which there were over 180 cases and disrupted the hospital routine for over three months.

Immediate steps were taken to isolate the infected patients, limit the spread of infection and discover its origin and mode of spread. Investigations showed that although there was no obvious or continuing source of infection the initial dissemination had been virtually throughout the hospital.

A very thorough programme of control had been worked out in co-operation with the hospital consultant who had been designated as Epidemics Officer at the onset of the outbreak with, it appeared, some positive effect as the number of new cases found from day to day remained few. A full report submitted to the Ministry of Health (see Appendix II) gives a detailed description of course of outbreak.

Among the conclusions which can be drawn from the study of such an outbreak and its methods of control, two points emerge of considerable interest; one, that the nursing staff can prevent themselves becoming infected or disseminating the infection and two, that even severely disturbed patients can co-operate in personnal and community hygiene.

APPENDIX I

Shire Hall,
Castle Hill,
Cambridge.

2nd March, 1960

Dear Doctor,

Sonne Dysentery

During the week ending 20th February some 1,646 cases and 1 death from sonne dysentery were notified in England and Wales to make the total number of cases notified, since the start of the year, some 8,222 cases with 4 deaths.

The weekly figure has shown a steady increase from the beginning of the year and is now much greater than the highest figures for the corresponding periods in the years 1951-59.

In Cambridgeshire some 54 cases have been notified or discovered since 21st December, 1959, in the Waterbeach area, and there have also been a few cases in the Duxford area, while in the neighbouring area of Saffron Walden 92 cases have been found to be positive.

At the present time there is no evidence of spread to other areas within the County but I am asking all doctors to keep the condition in mind when called to see anyone with suspicious symptoms.

The symptomatology has been very varied. Most cases have presented with acute diarrhoea but some cases have started with acute abdominal pain simulating appendicitis (one case being admitted as such to hospital) while with others vomiting has been the initial symptom.

Temperature has varied greatly from subnormal to marked pyrexia with tachycardia, feeble pulse and prostration.

Diarrhoea has often been prolonged for many days and been resistant to treatment and some cases have shown blood stained mucus in the stool.

It is a very great help in establishing a diagnosis to take a stool specimen or a rectal swab before starting treatment, particularly where chemotherapy or antibiotics are being given.

Although in the majority of cases the infection is spread by personal contact the risk of spread by food is high and I would be pleased if you could determine whether any suspected patient or member of his or her family is a food handler in order that investigations may be started as soon as possible. In many cases although only one person called in the doctor other members of the family had symptoms or were shown to be excreting the organism.

I would be extremely grateful for your co-operation and vigilance at the present time, for if fresh cases appear in other areas in the County early diagnosis and notification can play a great part in limiting the spread of the disease.

Yours sincerely,

APPENDIX II

REPORT ON OUTBREAK OF SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM IN FULBOURN HOSPITAL AUGUST-NOVEMBER, 1960.

This outbreak started on the 3rd August when two patients in two female wards developed temperatures and headaches and were admitted into the sick ward. They had, however, no gastrointestinal symptoms. The next day they produced relaxed stools as also did four other patients in one further female ward and one male patient in a fourth ward. It was then realised that there was an outbreak of gastrointestinal infection and all patients were immediately isolated and stools specimens submitted for culture.

On the following day (5th August), many more patients passed loose stools so that in total there were some 19 patients with gastrointestinal symptoms over six female wards and one male ward. The first laboratory reports came through at this time and indicated that a salmonella typhimurium infection was rampant throughout the hospital.

Over the next three or four days a few more patients developed diarrhoea and two further female wards were involved. Stool specimens from people without symptoms in affected wards showed a considerable amount of latent infection and by the 10th August, one week after the first case had reported sick, a total of 54 positive excreters had been discovered. On the next day in one ward a further 24 asymptomatic positive excreters were discovered. Random samples were then taken throughout the hospital to determine the extent of the asymptomatic infection and it was found that practically every ward had been infected. At the same time examination had been carried out on stool specimens from all members of the hospital staff, including the kitchen staff, and it was found that there were three members of the staff who were symptomless positive excreters, two nurses who had been barrier nursing on the wards and one cook. The first specimens submitted by the cook had been spoiled in transit (the pot being spilled) and the second one submitted on the 9th August was negative. The third specimen submitted on the 10th August was negative.

A sweep of the hospital continued until all patients and staff had submitted stool specimens and towards the end of August there had been 139 positive stools, including three staff, and of this number only two petients had been seriously ill with vomiting, diarrhoea, pyrexia, malaise, and some twenty complained of diarrhoea.

Over the next few weeks there was no further major spread and only some 27 new positives were discovered up to the 26th August. Routine stool specimens were being taken from the staff at least twice weekly and from new patients and patients due for discharge or leave.

One month after the start of the outbreak a fresh sweep through the whole hospital was commenced. The result of the sweep showed a considerable reduction in the number of positive excreters so that on the 22nd September it was estimated that only 33 positive excreters remained. By the 7th October this had reduced to 27, on the 21st October to 12 and by the 19th November only two positives, one who had carcinoma of the rectum, remained. The infecting agent was salmonella typhimurium Phage Type 1.

The food vector is unknown. That it was food borne from the central kitchen is to be deduced by the widespread nature of the infection and it is possible that the cook who submitted the positive stool specimen might be an agent in its transmission, although he states that at no time had he gastro-intestinal symptoms. A study of the menu for the period when the infection was likely to have been disseminated reveals few foods which are normally associated with outbreaks of salmonella food poisoning, and unfortunately it has not been the practice of the hospital to retain samples of meals for a period after they have been consumed by the patients. The follow-up of likely foods, i.e. luncheon sausage and other pre-cooked foods brought into the hospital revealed no evidence of infection. No other outbreaks of food poisoning were found to have been associated with these foods at any time.

This outbreak was controlled largely by means of (1) restriction of the patient from food handling and social eating between the wards. (2) enforcement of a high standard of personal hygiene amongst both staff and patients—a remarkable degree of co-operation was obtained, even from the more disturbed cases in the hospital. (3) frequent bulletins and dissemination of the information as to the state of the infection in the hospital by the Hospital Epidemics Officer.

It is astonishing how few members of the staff were ever found to be positive excreters. Out of approximately 180 positive excreters only 8 members of the staff were ever positive.

By the beginning of December all restrictions were lifted from the hospital and the patients and there have been no indications of any further cases.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his Authority as soon as possible.

Such Authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS 1959

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Totals
			Paralytic	Non Paralytic				
Under 1 year	1	1	—	—	2	—	2	6
1—	1	6	—	—	2	—	6	15
2—	2	3	—	—	3	—	3	11
3—	3	6	—	—	—	—	6	15
4—	2	6	—	—	—	—	4	12
5—9	17	10	—	—	3	—	38	68
10—14	2	—	—	—	—	—	12	14
15—25	2	—	—	—	1	—	12	15
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	30	32	—	—	11	—	113	186
1958 Totals	56	39	—	—	1332	—	18	1445

*

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	—	—	1	—	—	1
5—14	2	—	—	—	—	2
15—44	3	—	1	2	—	6
45—64	3	2	—	—	—	5
65 and over	5	—	—	—	—	5
Totals	13	2	2	2	—	19
1959 Totals	16	5	7	2	1	31

* Excluding 180 cases occuring in Fulbourn Hospital outbreak.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Annual case incidence and deaths 1950—1960

Disease	Years										
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Total	1960
Measles												
Cases	76	723	59	478	15	509	232	516	58	1,332	3,998	11
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough												
Cases	81	171	131	115	175	173	81	96	15	39	1,077	32
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Ten respiratory cases were notified for the first time during the year and four-non-respiratory. Forty three respiratory cases, previously notified in other areas ,were transferred to the district. On balance at the end of the year the number of persons on the respiratory register increased by fifteen.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1960

	Respiratory		*Non Respiratory*		*Total*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of cases on register at commencement of year	130	87	5	11	135	98
2. Number of cases notified for first time during the year under regulations	9	1	1	3	10	4
3. Cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to register otherwise than by notification under regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	22	21	—	—	22	21
(b) From Death Returns	1	—	1	—	2	—
5. Number of cases removed from register	19	20	—	5	19	25
6. Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	143	89	7	9	150	98

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION
RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS
CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.60

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	*Non Resp.*	*Resp.*	*Non Resp.*	*Resp.*	*Non Resp.*	
0—15	3	2	4	2	7	4	11
15—25	14	2	12	2	26	4	30
25—35	22	—	27	2	49	2	51
35—45	38	2	25	2	63	4	67
45—55	43	—	12	1	55	1	56
55—65	15	—	6	—	21	—	21
65 and over	8	1	3	—	11	1	12
TOTALS	143	7	89	9	232	16	248

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 50

No burials were effected during the year under the provisions of this section.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(Mr. E. B. Newman, F.P.H.I.A., A.M.P.H.E.)

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1960:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	6,904

General Sanitation

Miscellaneous visits re complaints, etc.	457
Visits re drainage or sewerage	1,126
Water supplies	241
Water samples taken	156
Factories Acts	59
Visits re verminous persons or property	2
Public cleansing visits	234
Shops Acts, etc.	221
Schools	99
Clean Air Act	7
Swimming Pools	24

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Visits re sampling (milk and other foods)	62
Visits to slaughterhouses	1,039
Butchers Shops	491
Preserved food Premises:	
(1) Sausage manufacturers	237
(2) Fried fish shops	13
Ice cream premises (retailers)	30
Cafes and restaurants	83
Other food premises	184
Bake-houses	15
Retail dairies	32
Licensed premises (public houses, etc.)	52

Housing

Housing inspections (P.H.A. 1936) Grants	82
Reinspections	137
Housing inspections (Housing Acts)	202
Reinspections	387
Moveable dwellings	252
Inspections re standard grants	117

Infectious Diseases

Visits and enquiries	1,254

HOUSING

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939 1,320

2. Post war housing progress:—

		Permanent	*Non-Traditional*	*Prefabs*	*Total*
Dwellings completed in	1946	18	—	5	23
,, ,, ,,	1947	52	16	45	113
,, ,, ,,	1948	77	10	—	87
,, ,, ,,	1949	21	70	—	91
,, ,, ,,	1950	115	—	—	115
,, ,, ,,	1951	133	—	—	133
,, ,, ,,	1952	106	—	—	106
,, ,, ,,	1953	184	—	—	184
,, ,, ,,	1954	229	70	—	299
,, ,, ,,	1955	121	28	—	149
,, ,, ,,	1956	90	—	—	90
,, ,, ,,	1957	102	—	—	102
,, ,, ,,	1958	69	—	—	69
,, ,, ,,	1959	126	—	—	126
,, ,, ,,	1960	14	—	—	14
		1,457	194	50	1,701

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversions of hutments.

Total number of dwellings completed up to 31.3.61:—

Prefabricated Bungalows ..	50
Bungalows	291
Flats	49
Non-Traditional Houses ..	178
Hut conversions	225
Permanent Houses	1,133
Total	1,926

Dwellings in course of erection or contracts prepared:—

Permanent Houses	Nil
Bungalows	32
Flats	Nil
	32

3. Private Development

Number of houses built by private enterprise during 1960:—

Permanent Houses	362
Conversions (Units)	1
	363

4. Slum Clearance

As a result of a comprehensive review of the housing needs of the area carried out in 1958 (see Annual Report 1958), approximately 800 houses were considered to fall within the slum clearance category—including those owner/occupied and derelict.

Action since that date has resulted as follows:—

(1)	Houses demolished or demolition orders operative	355
(2)	Closing orders made or undertakings accepted	121
(3)	Houses reconditioned	60
		536

Although, strictly speaking, the 5-year programme has not been fully implemented, nearly all the more urgent unfit properties have been dealt with. The remainder are borderline cases—often owner/occupied.

Unfortunately, the position with regard to rehousing has deteriorated since the last report and it is disturbing to note that there are at present over 100 condemned houses still occupied—some of them since 1955. To some extent this has been due to the lull in the building programme (only 14 new dwellings were built during 1960) and the great demand for casual vacancies by general needs cases.

The predominant needs is still for small units, as the majority of the tenants of unfit properties are either single elderly persons or childless couples. As will be seen under Paragraph 2, the Council has 32 bungalows in course of erection or in the contract stage and a future 18 are awaiting Ministry approval. The slow progress with the development of the Cottenham site is disappointing, having regard to the large number of condemned dwellings in that parish awaiting clearance.

At the 31st March, 1960, the total number of applicants on the Housing List was 779 (all categories). It is possible that the financial implications of the new Housing Bill may encourage the building of more houses for general needs and eventually lead to the reduction of this long list.

A summary of action taken during the year ending 31.12.60 was as follows:—

Houses inspected	284
Reinspections made	524
Demolition orders made	68
Houses demolished	54
Undertakings accepted	1
Undertakings cancelled	Nil
Houses made fit	99
Closing orders made	27

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following total action has been taken (up to 31.12.60):—

Houses demolished	657
Demolition orders not yet complied with	98
Houses demolished voluntarily	64
Houses subject to undertakings	88
Houses or parts closed	85
Houses made fit by formal action	33
Houses made fit by informal action	1,317

5. Temporary Hutments

One is pleased to record that no families have occupied hutments for the past two years. All the 284 hutments originally taken over by the Council have been vacated and demolished.

6. Requisitioning

All the 56 properties requisitioned by the Council have been released over two years.

7. Improvement Grants (Discretionary)

The Council has operated this scheme since its inception, apart from two periods when applications were suspended owing to the large numbers in hand. A summary of action taken since the introduction of the Act (up to 31st March, 1961) is as follows:—

Total applications for grants received	434
Total applications approved	426
Total applications disapproved	8
Total number of dwellings involved	576
Total cost of approved work (not withdrawn)	£281,164 11s. 6d.
Average total cost per dwelling	£488 2s. 8d.
Total amount of grant involved	£133,378 14s. 7d.
Average amount of grant per dwelling	£231 18s. 2d.
Total payments made up to 31.3.61	£116,982 10s. 11d.

Approved schemes provided for the following:—

1.	Remedying fundamental defects in the structure of the dwelling	108
2.	Fitting larger windows to improve light and ventilation	153
3.	Laying on internal water supply	114
4.	Installation of hot water system	553
5.	Provision of water closet	482
6.	Provision of bath	512
7.	Provision of sink	264
8.	Provision of new or improved drainage	520
9.	Provision of gas or electric points	479
10.	Installation of new heating appliances	388
11.	Provision of new or improved food stores	242
12.	Provision of solid fuel cooking appliances	144
13.	Provision of fuel stores	90
14.	Additional accommodation:	
	(a) living room(s)	58
	(b) bedroom(s)	40

It is interesting to note that the dwellings included in approved schemes were owned as follows:—

(a)	Owner/occupiers	265
(b)	Small property owners	134
(c)	Large individual property owners (exceeding 10)	25
(d)	Estates, Property Companies, etc.	152

Improvement Grants (Standard)

Since the introduction of the standard grant scheme in June, 1959, over 200 applications have been received, of which 98 have received final approval up to 31st March, 1961. This scheme is much simpler in operation and will be of great benefit in raising the standard of amenities in the area. In many cases a standard grant is more appropriate than a discretionary one, unless the work involves structural additions, and every encouragement is being given to owners to take advantage of the scheme.

8. Rent Act, 1957

A summary of the action taken during 1960 is appended below:—

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	1
Number of decisions to issue certificates	1
Number issued	Nil
Certificates cancelled by the Local Authroity	Nil

This Act has had very little impact on the landlord/tenant relationship in this area. The procedure is cumbersome and complicated for the average tenant, but the knowledge that such a certificate of disrepair may be obtained has discouraged many landlords from claiming the maximum permitted rent.

9. Old People's Bungalows

In 1956 the Council set aside part of their estate at Histon for an old people's unit of 18 bungalows. This unit, the first of its kind in the Country, had as a feature a resident warden whose duties included overseeing the welfare of the elderly residents and has proved a complete success.

A similar unit of approximately 25 bungalows is projected on the Council's housing site at Grantchester. A private firm of architects has been engaged to prepare a scheme to develop the whole of this site to the best advantage bearing in mind the character of the village.

A similar project at Longstanton was deferred, as no great demand was revealed in that locality. A further 6 bungalows were erected at Oakington in 1958 and 6 more are nearing completion at Lolworth.

The Council has erected nearly 350 bungalows and flats since the war and a further 32 are in course of erection. Future plans include a high proportion of small units of accommodaiton with a view to (1) making adequate provision for old people and (2) dealing effectively with the under occupation of existing Council houses. By making available a higher proportion of such small dwellings, greater flexibility can be obtained in meeting the demands of the ageing population.

10. The Remaining Problem

This may still be summarised as follows:—

1. The completion of the slum clearance programme.
2. The reduction of the general housing list, and
3. To determine a future policy when 1 and 2 have been met.

The completion of the slum clearance programme is now entirely related to the rate of building for rehousing purposes. The development of the Cottenham site plus the proposal for a further 44 dwellings in Fen Drayton and Little Shelford, etc., will be of great benefit in this respect.

The present general housing list of 779 shows very little reduction, but is probably inflated to some extent. It is probable that not more than 500 cases are entitled to rehousing if the Council's conditions are strictly observed.

The new Housing Bill now before Parliament proposes drastic alterations in the housing subsidies payable to Local Authorities and may serve to encourage more building for general needs.

It must be remembered that the Council has built 3,021 houses out of a total of 14,183 dwellings in the area, and private development accounts for well over 300 houses per annum at the present time. The availability of the land is the only limiting factor.

Briefly, therefore, taking into consideration the casual vacancy rate resulting from some 3,000 houses, approximately 100 more small dwellings are required for slum clearance, plus a limited programme to reduce the list of general needs cases.

11. Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

There can be no doubt that, at the present time, residential caravanning makes a marked contribution to the reduction of the housing problem in this area, as there are more than 500 families accommodated in this manner within the district.

The introduction of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 has considerably strengthened the hands of local authorities in securing proper standards and is a great advance over the largely ineffective provisions of the Public Health Act 1936. It has, however, and will continue to involve the Department in a great deal of additional work, since all existing sites had to be relicensed after clearance by the Planning Authority. This procedure has been very protracted but, as will be seen from the following figures, the administrative work is nearing completion. The position at the 30th May, 1961, was briefly as follows:—

Total number of applications for licences received	143
Number of licences for individual caravans issued	53
Number of site licences issued	41
Number of caravans involved	360
Number of applications not yet resolved	49
Inspections and visits during the year	252

A standard set of conditions has been approved by the Council, based on the Minister's recommendations, and these have been attached to all licences issued. A reasonable period has been allowed for compliance, based on the amount of work to be executed, but a considerable period must elapse before the full effect of the new legislation can be assessed. There appear to be two pre-re quisites, i.e. (1) permanent or long-term planning consent, and (2) a sufficient number of caravans to warrant the capital outlay.

No doubt some of the smaller sites will be discontinued eventually and the present acute shortage of available sites will be intensified. The provision of a large local authority site would be of distinct advantage in this respect, but the scarcity and prohibitive cost of land in this area renders such an enterprise extremely difficult.

Generally speaking, the existing sites in the area have been well maintained and the operators have co-operated very well with the Department. There are, however, three aspects which are disturbing from a public health point of view, i.e. (1) the sub-letting of caravans, from which practice most of the rehousing problems arise; (2) the use of inferior and worn out caravans of the holiday type for permanent residential purposes (these are often sub-let); and (3) the serious overcrowding which is often revealed and which is difficult to remedy within a reasonable period.

More dramatic than the public health hazards however, is the fire risk in these types of inferior overcrowded caravans. Even if a site has the statutory fire prevention requirements fulfilled the risks are extremely high. The County Chief Fire Officer is very well aware of this problem and is giving every help in tackling it from a prevention point of view. We cannot hope however to do very much while the problems detailed above continue to exist.

The prohibition or stringent control of sub-letting would do much to remove the prejudices and objections to this form of accommodation, more especially having regard to the very high standard now achieved in the modern caravan home.

TABLE 1

POST WAR HOUSING
PARISH ALLOCATION

(Houses allocated and completed since the war including those under contract or commenced at 31.3.61).

	Permanent Construction				Temp. Accom.	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton	6	—	6	—	—	—
Bourn	54	12	54	12	—	—
Boxworth	4	—	4	—	—	—
Caxton	19	10	19	10	—	—
Comberton	34	28	32	24	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	3	—	—
Cottenham	76	8	76	8	10	10
Croxton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	14	8	14	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	9	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	24	2	24	2	—	—
Fen Drayton	20	4	20	4	—	—
Fulbourn	70	18	70	18	10	10
Girton	85	20	85	20	—	—
Grantchester	8	—	8	—	—	—
Graveley	14	6	14	6	—	—
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	58	10	58	10	—	—
Haslingfield	38	15	38	15	—	—
Histon	102	34	102	22	—	—
Horningsea	16	4	16	4	—	—
Impington	36	2	36	2	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	14	2	14	2	—	—
Lolworth	8	6	8	—	—	—
Longstanton	26	9	26	9	—	—
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	28	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	24	19	24	19	10	10
Over	22	5	22	5	—	—
Rampton	11	—	11	—	—	—
Shelford, Great	144	42	144	42	10	10
Shelford, Little	18	—	18	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	10	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	28	6	28	6	—	—
Swavesey	26	6	26	6	—	—
Teversham	36	26	34	20	—	—
Toft	12	—	12	—	—	—
Waterbeach	53	40	53	40	—	—
Wilbraham, Great	8	—	8	—	—	—
Wilbraham, Little	18	6	18	6	—	—
Willingham	41	15	41	15	—	—
Totals	1311	372	1307	344	50	50

WATER SUPPLY

Generally

Apart from a few isolated properties, the whole of the Council's area has a mains supply of water available and the only main-laying carried out during the year consisted of approximately a mile of 4″ main linking the trunk main of the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board with the Over and Willingham mains to afford a limited additional supply particularly in drought periods. New mains on housing estates have been laid by the contractors concerned to the Council's specification.

Although there are only two statutory water authorities in the area, i.e. The Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company and the Council, supplies are drawn from 10 different sources, four of which are outside the Council's area. The Council is a constituent member of the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board (a bulk supply Board) and purchases supplies from that body for redistribution. Distribution generally is extremely complicated, with almost an entire absence of storage and mains which are of considerable age and inadequate in size to cope with the current requirements, bearing in mind the rapid development of the district and the ever increasing demand for water for agricultural and horticultural purposes.

The supplies, with the exception of that from the Statutory Company, are extremely hard and in certain areas have given rise to difficulties associated with a high iron content, accentuated by the lack of storage. A planned programme of improvements has not been possible, having regard to the impending re-grouping of the undertakings in the area.

Regrouping of Water Undertakings

At the time of writing, the Minister of Housing and Local Government has published a draft of the Cambridge Waterworks Order 1961 which provides for the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company taking over the existing water undertakings within the following local authority areas:—

Chesterton Rural District
South Cambridgeshire Rural District
St. Ives Rural District
St. Ives Borough, and
Ramsey Urban District

It also provides for the extension of the Company's statutory area of supply to the added limits.

Whilst the Council has recognised the need for regrouping in the interests of efficient administration and in particular to ensure the best use of the water resources in the area, it is naturally opposed to any scheme which denies the Council direct representation. In consequence, an appeal has been lodged against the Order and no doubt a public inquiry will be held in due course. Whatever the outcome it is hoped that a final decision will not be long delayed so that the large capital schemes of improvement can be implemented as soon as possible. Otherwise one can foresee serious difficulty in meeting the ever increasing demand for water in the area.

Sufficiency of Supply

The drought period during the early part of 1960 caused the Council a good deal of anxiety, as the resources in the Willingham/Over area were strained to breaking point. On some occasions the wells at these two villages were pumped dry and recovery was only effected by cutting off the supplies during the night hours.

Emergency measures taken included a temporary connection with the trunk main of the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board which passes through the district between the two villages, and the prohibition of new metered supplies. The position would have been less acute if means could have been found to restrict the quite unreasonable use of the supply for irrigation purposes. The old distribution system in Willingham includes a number of very small diameter mains which are quite inadequate for the numbers of properties served.

As mentioned above, a permanent connection has now been effected to the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Board main, but even then the additional supply will be limited to a maximum of 100,000 gallons per day for the two villages. This is not likely to improve the situation very much. Geological investigations are in hand with a view of augmenting the local supplies if possible.

Difficulties were also experienced in other parts of the area during peak periods, owing to lack of pressure arising from small mains and inadequate storage capacity. Only large capital expenditure will remedy these troubles and until the question of regrouping has been settled no progress can be made.

Chlorination and Softening

All public supplies in the area are chlorinated with the exception of the Council's small works at Harston (serving approximately 1,500 population).

Typical analyses are shown in Table No. 3, from which it will be noted that supplies are generally very hard, with the exception of the Harston source, which is naturally very soft, and the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company's supply, which is softened. The need for softening the water supplied by the Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board is fully recognised and only the impending regrouping of undertakings has prevented the necessary plant being installed.

A good deal of complaint has been received during the year of unpleasant smell and taste of water supplies in the south western part of the district from the Joint Board's source at Harlton. This appears to be due to some obscure chemical reactions in the main, associated with the high natural iron content of the water and accentuated by the absence of storage in the system. The matter is still under investigation.

The high nitrate figure for the supplies drawn from the river gravels (Over and Willingham) is commented upon by the Public Analyst, who no doubt has in mind the risk of met-haemoglobinaemia in infants.

Sampling

Regular sampling is carried out throughout the distribution system; check samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination and full chemical and bacteriological reports are obtained from the Public Analyst at quarterly intervals. The results are shown in Table 2.

TABLE No. 2

WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDING 31.12.60

Parish	Public Supplies				Private Supplies			
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.
Barton	2	6	—	—	—	—	1	—
Boxworth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Caldecote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Comberton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cottenham	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croxton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Elsworth	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eltisley	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
Girton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Graveley	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Harlton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harston	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Haslingfield	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Landbeach	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Longstanton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madingley	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Over	4	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Papworth St. Agnes	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shelford, Gt.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Shelford, Little	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Stapleford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Stow-cum-Quy	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Swavesey	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waterbeach	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	2
Wilbraham Little	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Willingham	1	9	4	1	—	—	—	10
Totals	20	56	4	4	1	7	2	22

The unsatisfactory samples from the public supplies were due to minor bacteriological contamination, quickly traced and remedied. The chemical failures at Willingham were due to the high nitrate figure previously mentioned.

In all cases where private supplies yielded unsatisfactory results alternative supplies were arranged by connection to the mains or the well improved and protected.

Typical results of analyses from the five main sources of supply are set out in the following Table

TABLE NO. 3

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Test	Cambridge Water Co.	Willingham Waterworks	Joint Water Board	Harston Waterworks	Over Waterworks
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.9	6.9
Parts per 100,000					
Chlorine	2.0	3.85	8.0	2.10	6.50
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0010	0.0006	0.0128	0.0362	0.0030
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0006	0.0076	0.0042	0.0006	0.0258
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0445	0.0481	0.0378	0.0227	0.1807
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Nitrates	0.70	1.55	absent	absent	0.05
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Bacteriological Examination					
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maximum hardness during year (parts per 100,000)	13.0	46.5	44.5	19.8	49.2
Minimum hardness during year (parts per 100,000)	11.5	41.2	19.9	5.8	21.7

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY DEPARTMENT YEAR ENDING 31.12.60

Total number of visits made re water supplies	217
Total samples taken	116
Samples reported fit:	
(a) public supplies	76
(b) private supplies	8
Samples reported unfit:	
(a) public supplies	8
(b) private supplies	24
Water supplies improved as a result of action by the department	12

TABLE NO. 4

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.61

PARISH	Population 1951 Census	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.61	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)
Barton	528	C.R.D.C.	268	219
Bourn	1,053	C.R.D.C.	281	264
Boxworth	196	C.R.D.C.	66	65
Caldecote	396	C.R.D.C.	136	131
Caxton	375	C.R.D.C.	123	120
Childerley	22	C.R.D.C.	7	6
Comberton	597	C.R.D.C.	282	259
Conington	132	C.R.D.C.	45	45
Coton	519	C.W.W.	186	163
Cottenham	2,440	C.R.D.C.	922	908
Croxton	170	C.R.D.C.	65	61
Dry Drayton	405	C.R.D.C.	124	120
Elsworth	515	C.R.D.C.	184	183
Eltisley	276	C.R.D.C.	97	96
Fen Ditton	632	C.W.W.	229	194
Fen Drayton	483	C.R.D.C.	154	145
Fulbourn	2.413	C.W.W.	696	640
Girton	1,931	C.W.W.	898	871
Grantchester	493	C.W.W.	169	166
Graveley	218	C.R.D.C.	63	56
Hardwick	471	C.R.D.C.	168	157
Harlton	236	C.R.D.C.	96	82
Harston	938	C.R.D.C.	376	368
Haslingfield	1,142	C.R.D.C.	310	268
Hauxton	381	C.R.D.C.	158	154
Histon	2,555	C.W.W.	1,104	1,090
Horningsea	325	C.R.D.C.	126	115
Impington	1,301	C.W.W.	447	444
Knapwell	109	C.R.D.C.	36	32
Landbeach	610	C.R.D.C.	226	197
Lolworth	86	C.R.D.C.	41	31
Longstanton	1,481	C.R.D.C.	234	222
Madingley	182	C.W.W.	68	66
Milton	738	C.W.W.	249	233
Newton	279	C.R.D.C.	114	93
Oakington	500	C.R.D.C.	243	232
Over	906	C.R.D.C.	344	311
Papworth Everard	1,205	C.R.D.C.	286	285
Papworth St. Agnes	88	C.R.D.C.	32	31
Rampton	221	C.R.D.C.	95	92
Shelford, Great	2,318	C.W.W.	1,280	1,189
Shelford, Little	658	C.W.W.	227	198
Stapleford	831	C.W.W.	487	436
Stow-cum-Quy	527	C.R.D.C.	151	137
Swavesey	927	C.R.D.C.	326	320
Teversham	571	C.W.W.	284	225
Toft	250	C.R.D.C.	110	92
Waterbeach	2,630	C.R.D.C.	608	545
Westwick	61	C.R.D.C.	14	14
Wilbraham, Great	435	C.W.W.	155	140
Wilbraham, Little	266	C.R.D.C.	135	128
Willingham	1,623	C.R.D.C.	658	643
Totals	38,645		14,183	13,282 (93.6%)

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

The Chief Public Health Inspector remains responsible for public cleansing throughout the district and during 1960 the following refuse collection schedules were operated:—

Weekly

Parish	No. of Houses
Girton	898
Harston	376
Hauxton	158
Histon	1,104
Impington	447
Shelford, Great	1,280
Shelford, Little	227
Stapleford	487
8 Parishes	4,977 houses (35.1%)

Fortnightly

Parish	No. of Houses	Parish	No. of Houses	Parish	No. of Houses
Barton	268	Fen Drayton	154	Oakington	243
Bourn	281	Fulbourn	696	Over	344
Boxworth	66	Grantchester	169	Papworth Everard	286
Caldecote	136	Graveley	63	Papworth St. Agnes	32
Caxton	123	Hardwick	168	Rampton	95
Childerley	7	Harlton	96	Stow-cum-Quy	151
Comberton	282	Haslingfield	310	Swavesey	326
Conington	45	Horningsea	126	Teversham	284
Coton	186	Knapwell	36	Toft	110
Cottenham	922	Landbeach	226	Waterbeach	608
Croxton	65	Lolworth	41	Westwick	14
Dry Drayton	124	Longstanton	234	Wilbraham, Great	155
Elsworth	184	Madingley	68	Wilbraham, Little	135
Eltisley	97	Milton	249	Willingham	658
Fen Ditton	229	Newton	114		
44 Parishes 9,206 Houses (64.9%)					

With a population of some 44,000 which is increasing at the rate of over 1,000 per annum the collection of refuse (and its disposal) presents a formidable problem in a large area such as this, involving 52 villages covering 174 square miles. The district entirely surrounds the City of Cambridge and in consequence varies in character from the built up semi-urban areas adjoining the City to the isolated fen hamlet. Consequently, the policy has been to provide a weekly refuse collection service to the larger parishes (35% of the houses) and a fortnightly one to the remainder of the district (65%). This programme, revised in 1959, has operated very successfully but increasing development will necessitate a further review in the near future, as some parishes now merit inclusion in the weekly schedules, e.g. Fulbourn (696 houses).

Having regard to the conditions outlined above, the service is inevitably an expensive one and already costs the equivalent of a 1/- rate. Any substantial increase in frequency of collections would involve additional labour and vehicles and increase this figure still further. Similarly, the substitution of a backdoor collection for the present kerb side one would increase the cost by approximately half—much as one would like to see this improvement effected.

Somewhat surprisingly, labour continues to be available for this work notwithstanding the fact that the Depot is some seven miles out of the City. Every endeavour is made to restrict the staff to the minimum necessary to complete the schedules but the position has not been helped by a reduction in working hours from forty-four to forty-two per week, an additional three days' holiday in certain cases and the longer public holidays granted by the Council. With no other source of labour to call upon, some curtailment of the service is unavoidable at Bank Holidays although annual leave is staggered so as to avoid complete shut-down.

The present programme is carried out by a fleet of five diesel engined 16/18 cu. yd. vehicles of the fore and aft tipping type with a 12 cu. yd. side loading (petrol) vehicle in reserve. This latter vehicle will be withdrawn from service upon delivery of a further diesel vehicle early in 1961. The fleet will then be entirely composed of diesel vehicles of modern type.

The rate equivalent for 1960/61 Collection and disposal is 11.38 pence which may be considered satisfactory in view of the problems outlined above.

Disposal

The disposal without nuisance of some 12,000 tons of refuse per annum is no mean task and the problem is becoming more acute owing to (1) the changing character of the refuse—being lighter more bulky and containing more putrescible matter; (2) the unfavourable terrain—being flat country with a high water table and (3) the spread of housing development into the more rural areas thereby reducing the available tipping sites. The position is still further complicated by the absence of readily available covering material and the increasing resistance of flies to the available insecticides. Four tips are in use for the area and at three the practice is to burn the refuse on arrival and consolidate the residue subsequently. This has proved relatively successful and no serious nuisance arose during the summer.

There is however, a pressing need for more mechanical assistance and the Council has agreed to purchase a Bristol Duplex machine fitted with skate equipment, in 1961. This will provide a light tracked bulldozer (or shovel) capable of being towed from tip to tip without the necessity for a special transporter.

All tips are under the constant surveillance and treatment by the Pest Officer.

Generally speaking, the time is approaching when consideration must be given to disposal on a regional basis where the additional cost of transport could be offset by the improved recovery of salvageable materials and ultimate disposal of the remainder.

Collection of Salvage

With the modern trend of prepacking so many domestic articles, the percentage of waste paper and cartons, etc., in the refuse is extremely high. This necessitates larger vehicles and constitutes a serious embarrassment from a disposal point of view. Unfortunately, the uncertain market and the low prices for baled wastepaper does not merit a separate collection at present having regard to the additional labour and plant involved, to say nothing of the increased fire hazard at the Depot.

Statistics

Briefly the cost statements for the year ending 31st March, 1961, reveal the following:—

Total mileage travelled	64,377 miles
Cost per mile (excluding loan charges)	12.39 pence
Estimated tons of refuse collected and disposed of	12,091 tons
Estimated net cost per ton (collection and disposal)	£1 5 10
Estimated number of clearances	498,160
Average cost per clearance	7.5 pence
Estimated average miles per ton	5.3 miles
Estimated miles per gallon (petrol)	6.5 m.p.g.
Estimated miles per gallon (diesel)	11.9 m.p.g.
Net Annual cost per 1,000 dwellings	£1102 14 4
Net Annual cost per 1,000 population	£355 13 9

Cesspool Emptying

As more public sewers become available the necessity for this service diminishes, at least in the more urban parishes. Development in the rural area where sewers are not available offsets this to some extent. The Council continues to operate two Karrier/Yorkshire 700 gallon cesspool emptiers. One is retained principally on Council work—desludging small sewage plants, cleansing village drains and catchpits, etc., whilst the other is engaged in the casual emptying of private cesspools on a rechargeable basis. Both are equipped for the collection of night soil which is undertaken in one parish only.

The Council's charges for cesspool emptying remains at 35/- plus 15/- for each additional load and has remained unaltered since 1951.

Owing to the wet season in 1960 the service was in heavy demand.

A summary of the work carried out during the year ending 31st March, 1961, is as follows:—

Actual mileage travelled	20,641 miles
Estimated cost per mile	12.5 pence
Numbers of clearances made	1,337
Estimated cost per clearance	£2 0 6½
Estimated number of loads disposed of	1,985
Estimated cost per load	£1 7 3½

Disposal is effected by the use of public sewers and sewage disposal works in consultation with the Engineer's Department. Only rarely can agricultural land be used without nuisance or danger to health.

Night Soil Collection

No general collection of night soil is undertaken by the Council but a private firm of contractors carries out a service throughout the district at a nominal charge of approximately 1/3 per clearance. This service is widely used.

The council continues to carry out the following weekly collections:—

Waterbeach (approximately 350 pails) by direct labour.

Grantchester (approximately 33 pails) by private contract.

The work carried out by the Council's direct labour in the parish of Waterbeach during the year ending 31st March, 1961, was as follows:—

Total bucket clearances	17,940
Estimated cost per clearance	5.1 pence

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public swimming pools in the Council's area although the City Authorities operate three open air pools at two of which the water is chlorinated.

The river Cam is used extensively for swimming, both above and below Cambridge and its condition, at least bacteriologically, is a matter of concern. Samples taken during the Summer of 1960 showed very high bacterial counts and it was deemed advisable to display notices along the banks notifying the public that the water was considered unfit for bathing. Naturally, this aroused considerable comment not all of which was appreciative. Judged by River Board standards (purely chemical considerations) the river has always been regarded as clean and correlation of both chemical and bacteriological results is difficult. Undoubtedly there is scope for more investigation—a pre requisite being the collection of records over a longer period. It is hoped to continue this work during the summer of 1961.

Mention must be made of the growing interest in the construction by voluntary labour of small pools at schools. Three are now completed (Girton, Stapleford and Waterbeach) and a fourth is projected at Swavesey Village College.

The Department has co-operated with advice on suitable chlorination methods and sampling is undertaken regularly. Results from hand dosing have shown that whilst a chlorine residual can be obtained there is often a high bacterial count. In one case however, by automatic dosing "break point" chlorination has been successfully achieved with excellent results bacteriologically. Great credit is due to all concerned with these ventures which have proved of such recreational value.

SHOP ACTS

The following summary shows the action taken by the Department during the year:—

Total number of shops on register (31.12.60)	288
Inspections recorded	*712

(* including visits for other purposes)

VERMINOUS PERSONS OR PREMISES

Whilst much still remains to be done in order to co-ordinate the many services now available for old people, the general improvement in their home circumstances and accommodation has resulted in little call being made on the department for cleansing and fumigation, etc. In fact, in only one case was fumigation for fleas necessary during the year.

The occasional disinfection of bedding is effected at Chesterton Hospital by courtesy of the United Cambridge Hospitals and the services of the Cleansing staff and Pests Officer are available for the cleaning up of premises vacated by old people.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Public Schemes

During the year, work has continued on the contract for sewering Little Shelford (227 houses) and Stapleford (487 houses) and will be completed in 1961. Good progress continues to be made with work on the Cottenham scheme (922 houses) and part at least, will be available for connection by late 1961.

Priority of Future Schemes

The increasing rate of private building throughout the district made it apparent during the year that, unless a radical re-appraisal of priorities was made in the near future, new public hazards would be added to those already known to exist.

To this end, the following report was submitted to the Public Health Committee of the Council on the 6th December, 1960:—

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE PRIORITY OF SEWERAGE SCHEMES IN THE CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT

In the past, the priority of sewerage schemes has been based on purely public health considerations, *e.g.* density of development, pollution of rivers and ditches, etc., and in 1944 the Council informed the County Council that in their opinion the following parishes urgently required sewering within the next ten years:—

Bourn (282)
Caxton (125)
*Cottenham (925)
Elsworth (160)
*Fulbourn (647)
*Girton (862)
Harston (366)
*Histon (1,085)
*Impington (444)
*Milton (257)
Over (345)
*Gt. Shelford (1,189)
*Lt. Shelford (224)
*Stapleford (463)
Swavesey (325)
Waterbeach (593)
Willingham (649)

Since that report, schemes have been completed or are in progress in the nine parishes marked with an asterisk at an overall estimated cost of **£768,000** (not including Madingley).

At present, however, no further schemes have been commenced or are in course of preparation.

Furthermore, with the rapid increase in private house building within certain parts of the district a new factor emerges which necessitates a re-appraisal of priorities. Whilst it is accepted that certain villages have already a claim to priority on the basis of existing public health risks due to the absence of adequate drainage, the development both recent and projected, particularly in the southern half of the district, has already created a serious problem which will grow steadily worse unless modern sewerage facilities are provided. This state of affairs is largely brought about by the erection of large numbers of dwellings with modern sanitary fittings in areas where cesspool or septic tank drainage is difficult and often impossible, due to the heavy nature of the sub-soil and/or the high water table. The Chief Public Health Inspector has previously brought these difficulties to the attention of the Committee.

The Planning Authority is anxious to direct development to those villages where a sewer is available or planned for the near future where land is still available.

Bearing in mind the time required for the preparation of a scheme and which must elapse before its completion, it is a matter of the utmost urgency that the sewering of villages where development is now taking place or is projected should be carried out, concurrently with the schemes previously agreed, *e.g.* Over, Swavesey and Willingham.

Unless this is done now the opportunity to plan for such development will have been lost and a public health problem, as serious as any which now exist, will be created. In this context the Committee might care to consider particularly the following villages:

Haslingfield— (290)	Some fifty new dwellings already built and development of a further one hundred and fifty possible. Drainage difficulties already acute.
Hauxton— (149)	Some forty new dwellings already built and fifty more proposed. Drainage very bad owing to high water table.
Harston— (366)	Development of one hundred houses possible with a greater potential in reserve for development if required. Drainage very bad owing to high water table.
Coton— (181)	Some fifty to sixty houses already planned (enlargement of the Council's estate sewage disposal plant is under consideration but only for the proposed new school).
Oakington— (220)	Development of fifty to sixty houses envisaged with the possibility of three or four small sewage plants in close proximity.
Dry Drayton— (125)	Ripe for development but very heavy sub-soil and serious drainage difficulties unless sewered.
Comberton— (252)	A scheme for the development of some four hundred houses is contemplated and quite obviously the remainder of the village should be sewered at the same time.

The villages of Over, Swavesey and Willingham have been recognised as having a high priority for sewering, possible by a joint scheme, and to some extent this is true of Waterbeach, although no great amount of development in these villages is envisaged.

For convenience, therefore, the sewering of villages in the area might be considered in the following manner:—

Stage I	(Existing priorities)		
		Over	(345)
		Swavesey	(325)
		Willingham	(649)
Stage II	(Development areas with existing or potential drainage problems)		
	A	Haslingfield	(290)
		Hauxton	(149)
		Harston	(366)
	B	Dry Drayton	(125)
		Oakington	(220)
Stage III	(Possible joint schemes with developers)		
		Coton	(181)
		Comberton	(252)
Stage IV	(Other villages with existing public health problems)		
		Waterbeach	(593) (Possibly including Landbeach (213)).
Stage V	(Other villages where sewerage is very desirable but not immediately essential)		
		Caxton	(125)
		Elsworth	(160)
		Fen Ditton	(218)
		Fen Drayton	(154)
		Grantchester	(171)
		Longstanton	(218)
		Harlton	(87)

Recommendations

Having regard to all the factors outlines above, we ask the Committee to recommend the Council to:

(a) prepare schemes immediately for the parishes in Stage I and Stage II A concurrently;
(b) as soon as schemes for (a) are in hand to proceed with Stage II B and Stage IV;
(c) that joint schemes with developers be implemented as they arise (Stage III), and
(d) that the sewering of the other villages set out in Stage V be reconsidered in three years' time when the other village schemes are substantially in hand.

(*Signed*) J. DRUMMOND
Medical Officer of Health.
E. B. NEWMAN
Chief Public Health Inspector.

29*th November*, 1960.

NOTE.—Throughout this report the numbers in brackets after each village are the number of occupied houses at 31st March, 1960 (rate books). The average cost of sewering villages of this kind may be taken as £200-£250 per dwelling for comparative purposes.

The Council accepted these recommendations in principle and agreed the following programme:—

Stage I (existing priorities)—To be carried out by the Council's Engineer with staff suitably augmented:—

Over	(345 houses).
Swavesey	(325 houses).
Willingham	(649 houses).

To be followed by

Waterbeach (and possibly Landbeach) (593 houses).

Stage II (Development areas). To be carried out by Consulting Engineers concurrently

with Stage I.	
Haslingfield	(290 houses)
Hauxton	(149 houses)
Harston	(366 houses)
To be followed by:—	
Dry Drayton	(125 houses)
Oakington	(220 houses).

It is estimated that these schemes will cost approximately £1,000,000 and will take about 10 years to complete.

Council Estates

Since my last report the Housing Committee has been directing its efforts towards securing full scale improvements to pre-war Council Houses rather than piece meal connections to the sewer only. To date the following schemes have been completed:—

Fulbourn	49 houses
Fen Drayton	6 ,,
Impington	16 ,,

The following schemes are programmed:—

Chittering	10 houses
Dry Drayton	19 ,,
Hardwick	16 ,,
Longstanton	5 ,,
Waterbeach	18 ,,

Excluding new houses erected over 600 existing Council Houses have been connected to public or estate sewers as follows:—

Total previously recorded	418
Comberton	36
Dry Drayton	19
Teversham	12
Hardwick	16
Impington	26
Gt. Shelford	28
Fulbourn	49
Fen Drayton	6
Longstanton	5
Madingley	7
Total 31.3.61	622

Drainage and Sewer Connections (Private Property)

All new drainage work to existing buildings including connection to the public sewers (excluding work in the Highway) is supervised by the Public Health Department in collaboration with the Engineer and Surveyor and a considerable proportion of the Inspector's time is devoted to this work.

Householders are encouraged to connect their properties to the new sewers and much assistance is offered by way of improvement grants and an extended payment scheme. The response has been very good and little real compulsion has so far been necessary. The following Table indicates the total number of houses connected to public sewers (excluding private estate sewers) at 31st December, 1960:—

Total Number of Houses Connected to Public Sewers at 31.3.61

Parish	Council Houses	Private Houses
Fen Ditton	20	—
Fulbourn	144	368
Girton	146	652
Histon	182	723
Impington	54	212
Milton	57	140
Great Shelford	275	818
Stapleford	—	80
Teversham	62	41
Totals	940	3,034

It will be noted that although the provision of main drainage did not commence in this area until after the last war some 4,000 houses (approximately 30%) are now connected to public sewers. There has been however, a serious lull in the programme, which it is hoped will now be compensated for by the Council's provision noted above.

A rather disturbing aspect of the problem is the rapidity with which recently completed works became inadequate and overloaded as a result of the greatly increased building rate and the changing emphasis brought about the intense competition for the limited land now available for development.

In those areas where no sewers are available estate developers have been encouraged to construct small sewage disposal plants rather than a number of ineffective and unsatisfactory cesspools or septic tanks.

Although this has proved fairly successful some concern is now being expressed on the desirability of a large number of small plants sited indiscriminately throughout the area, and the arrangements made for ensuring the satisfactory operation and maintenance of these plants. At the present moment the Council is reluctant to accept responsibility for these plants.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The Council continues to employ a full time Pests Officer and one Operator who work under the directions of the Chief Public Health Inspector in the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. At the same time a complete pest destruction service is available to the public both for private and council property.

Rat destruction is undertaken free of charge on all domestic premises and work on business or industrial premises is carried out on a contract or full recovery basis. The service is in great demand for the destruction of pests other than rats, such as wasps, hornets, bats, moles, cockroaches, etc.

The staff does not attempt to compete with the various servicing companies who now carry out most of the work previously done by the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Committee. Area surveys are undertaken from time to time to ensure that there are no serious infestations and contracts are accepted where specifically requested. Naturally, priority is given to the supervision and treatment of the Council's own premises such as refuse tips, sewage works and public ditches etc.

Since the withdrawal of the direct deficiency grant previously made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (up to 1st April, 1959) the full cost of the service is charged to the General Rate less approximately £300 recovered by way of contracts etc. The net cost represents slightly less than the product of a penny rate—a very reasonable expenditure for a service which contributes so much to good hygiene and is so much appreciated by the public generally.

Warfarin continues to be used almost exclusively, the staff preparing their own mixes with wheatmeal, barley meal etc., purchased in bulk. The occasional use of zinc phosphide provides an alternative and where necessary gassing with " Cymag " is resorted to.

The year has been fairly quiet with no serious infestations of a major character although it is estimated that nearly 24,000 rats were destroyed. During the same period 153 wasps' nests were destroyed.

Table No. 5 shows a brief summary of the work carried out for the period ending 31st December, 1960:—

TABLE NO. 5

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	Total
Approximate total number of properties in area	59	14,183	1,000	525	15,767
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	—	520	—	9	529
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	23	7,827	28	156	8,034
Number of properties found to to be infested with rats *Major*	6	21	3	7	37
Minor	17	1,489	1	19	1,526
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	23	1,547	4	26	1,600
Number of notices served under Section 4 (treatment)	—	—	—	—	—
Number of ' block control ' Schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

A summary of the results achieved during this period is as follows:—

Total number of rats recovered	5,893
Total estimated kill (9 months)	23,572
Total number of wasps' nests removed	153

Number of premises treated for:

Mice	37
Beetles	4
Flies	2
Ants	5

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

It is a common misconception that the Clean Air Act only applies to industrial areas and has no application in a rural district and on the face of this it is difficult to arouse interest. However applications for prior approval of new boiler plants are encouraged and where necessary these are submitted to the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service for perusal. Three such applications were received and approved during the year.

The majority of industrial plants in the area are now converted for oil burning and no further difficulty has been experienced at Fulbourn Hospital since the introduction of mechanical stokers.

SCHOOLS

The County Council's policy of closing small out of date schools was continued. The only ones in the Council's area affected being Harlton and Toft which were closed at the end of 1959.

New sanitary accommodation was completed at Fen Ditton School.

The Public Health Inspectors continued to visit the school meals kitchens and it was noted that a very high standard of practice is maintained by all the school meals staff.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1957

Premises registered at 31.12.60	1

Only one factory in the area is engaged on the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials. No action was necessary during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1957

There are no premises registered in the area and there are no markets held.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

The District became an " attested " area with effect from October, 1959 and in addition only Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk may be sold by retail.

The following figures (supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) indicates the position in the area at 31.3.61:—

Number of wholesale producers in the area	90
Number of producer/retailers in the area	28
Number of retail purveyors	23

The following is a summary of the year's work under the various Milk and Dairies Regulations:—

*Number of distributors with premises in the area	20
*Number of distributors with premises outside the area	3
Visits paid to retail dairies etc.	23

*(Registered by Local Authority)

It will be noted that under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960 the Council ceased to be the Authority responsible for the issuing of licences to retail designated milks (with effect from 1st October, 1960). At that date the following licences were in force:—

Licences to retail Pasteurised Milk	18
Licences to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk	23
Licences to retail Sterilised Milk	10

TABLE No. 6
MILK SAMPLING 1960

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	Samples Taken	No. Passing Test	No. Failing	No. of Samples Submitted	Free from Infection	Positive T.B.	Brucella Abortus
ROUTINE SAMPLING							
Tuberculin Tested	3	2	1	7	6	—	1
Pasteurised	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	5	1	7	6	—	1
SCHOOL MILKS							
Pasteurised	41	32	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	42	33	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	48	38	1	7	6	—	1

Includes 9 samples (pasteurised where atmospheric shade temperature was over 65°F)

Sampling of milk by the Department is confined to routine samples taken in the course of delivery to ensure its freedom from contamination and pathogenic bacteria.

Since deliveries in the area are in the hands of two or three large firms, the task is relatively simple and good coverage can be afforded by a relatively small number of samples.

The Department ceased to be responsible for school milk sampling as from 1st October last.

The results during the year did not reveal any failures in the case of pasteurised milk and only one sample failed the present test for Tuberculin Tested Milk. Biological sampling however, revealed one case of *Brucella Abortus* in a Tuberculin Tested supply which was being retailed both in this area and in the City of Cambridge. The farmer concerned voluntarily arranged for all his milk to be pasteurised before sale and will install his own plant as soon as possible. Efforts are proceeding to identify and exclude if possible the infected animals.

Generally speaking, most of the hazards associated with the sale and consumption of raw milk have been eliminated—only two problems remain—the eradication of *brucella abortus* especially in Tuberculin Tested herds from which the milk is still retailed without pasteurisation and secondly to reduce the number of incidents involving stained or dirty milk bottles and "foreign bodies" in the milk. These latter are problems associated with large scale mechanical bottling. A Clean Milk Campaign has been launched in this area following the success of the Norfolk scheme, with this mind. It may well be that in measurable time the bottle will be superceded by some form of non-returnable container of plastic or waxed carton form which would be a great step forward.

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses on register at 31.12.60:—	12
Inspections recorded	15
Premises repaired or improved	1
Improved equipment, etc.	3
Redecoration	5

Of all the food trades this is probably the most difficult to deal with, especially in a rural area. In the face of heavy competition for the sliced and wrapped loaf—mass produced by the large multiple firms and universally available, the village baker, whose product is much to be preferred, is slowly disappearing from the scene and one is reluctant to hasten this process by too regularly enforcing the regulations. Of the 12 bakehouses remaining on the register one is considered to be in such poor condition as to be incapable of improvement and new premises have been promised. The remainder are in good condition. No difficulties have arisen during the year and no statutory action has been necessary.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955)

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1960	182
Sausage manufacturers	22
Fish fryers	8
Ice cream (sale only)	152

All premises comply with the basic requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and routine visits only have been necessary. One new fish frying premises has been completed in substitution for unfit premises closed.

No ice cream is manufactured in the area and the 152 registrations are for sale only. No loose ice cream is sold from registered premises which mainly deal in the pre-packed commodity manufactured by one of the three well known national suppliers. No action was necessary under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

The following premises are subject to inspection by the Department in addition to premises mentioned elsewhere in the Report (Bakehouses, Preserved Food Premises, Dairies, etc.)

Food Shops	192
Cafes and Restaurants	21
Licensed Premises	63
Clubs (excluding Old Peoples' Clubs)	5
Residential establishments, Hospitals, etc.	10
Factory Canteens	9
School Canteens	17

As a result of 1,090 recorded visits the following improvements were secured during the year:—

New premises	5
Structural improvements (new floors, ceilings, wall surfaces, etc.)	12
Installation of wash basins	3
Hot water supplies	4
New working surfaces	2
New fittings—refrigerators and (refrigerated displays etc.)	26
Redecoration	22
New sinks	1
New drainage and/or sanitary accommodation	7

Steady progress continues to be made and the general standard of food premises in the area is a tribute to the work of the District Inspectors. Relationship with the traders is excellent and the department enjoys their full co-operation in all matters of food hygiene. Consequently, no statutory action was necessary during the year. A small number of complaints were received of the inevitable "foreign body" found from time to time in this era of full mechanisation and pre-packages. These are always closely investigated but in the absence of any evidence of gross negligence no proceedings were considered necessary.

LICENSED PREMISES

It is interesting to note that as a result of a survey of 155 licensed premises made in 1946 it was revealed that 58 houses had no water laid on, 137 had no hot water supply, 35 had no sanitary accommodation whatever for the public and a further 61 had insufficient or defective accommodation.

Today, apart from one or two premises where the future of the licence is in doubt, all houses have good sanitary accommodation, mains water and proper glass washing facilities etc., justifiable tribute to the work of the Department and the co-operation received from the brewers concerned.

The total number of premises has decreased to 125 as a result of licences being surrendered at the more unsatisfactory houses, but the general standard of the remainder is extremely good. One new house was built during the year to replace an old one (since demolished) and substantial reconditioning schemes were recorded at five other houses.

MEAT INSPECTION

Nine small slaughterhouses were in operation during the year from one of which a small amount of meat is exported out of the area. A local animal research establishment is also licensed but to date no animals have been slaughtered for human consumption on the premises.

The year has been notable for the activity involved in the preparation and submission of the report to the Minister of Housing and Local Government as required under the Slaughterhouses Act 1958 and the Slaughterhouse Report (Appointed Day) Order 1959. This involved a detailed survey of all slaughtering premises in the area, meeting and advising owners on works required to comply with the Regulations and consultations with various interested bodies such as the Master Butchers' Association, National Farmers' Union etc., after which a final report was submitted to the Minister on 7th October, 1960. This was approved and the "Appointed Day" for full compliance with all the requirements of the construction and prevention of cruelty Regulations was fixed for the 1st July, 1961.

Having regard to the high cost of bringing the premises up to standard only three owners elected to do so. Of these, two are completed at the time of writing and the remainder is approaching that stage. It would seem therefore, that a policy of " moderate concentration " has been achieved by economic rather than statutory means. In any case ample facilities exist for retailers to puchase meat from the several wholesale premises in the locality or to have their animals slaughtered at one of the licensed premises. No doubt the shortage of slaughtermen has been a factor also in the reduction of licensed premises.

Although the present trend will simplify the work of the Inspectors to some extent by concentrating slaughtering in a smaller number of premises with a higher standard of hygiene and facilities, one must spare a thought for the old premises shortly to be closed, which in the past have produced some of the finest meat obtainable anywhere, turned out with all the skill of the old craftesmen.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations 1960 came into force on 1st November, 1960. These ensure that all meat unfit for human consumption must be sterilised or destroyed. It should therefore be no longer possible for retailers of pets' meat to obtain unfit meat from slaughterhouses unless it has been properly treated.

The Chief Inspector and the two District Inspectors are fully qualified in the inspection of meat and other foods and it has been possible to maintain 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered in the area.

The following is a summary of the animals slaughtered and carcases inspected during the year ending 31st December, 1960:—

TABLE NO. 7
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1960

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep Lambs
Animals killed and inspected	933	46	47	2,395	41	3388
All Diseases except T.B.						
Whole carcases and offal condemned	4	1	—	1	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	69	4	—	78	1	11
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	7.82	10.87	—	3.30	2.44	0.44
T.B. Only						
Whole carcases and offal condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	3	—	—	21	—	—
%of number inspected affected with T.B.	0.32	2.17	—	0.88	—	—
Number of organs or parts condemned—All Diseases						
Head	26	2	—	17	—	—
Lungs	3	—	—	1	—	—
Heart	21	1	—	2	—	—
Liver	29¾	1	—	65½	—	6
Spleen	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diaphragm	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mesentery	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other	2	—	—	11	1	5
TOTAL	83¾	4	—	97½	1	11

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44 (4.5%)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	13

It will be seen from the above Table that the number of animals dealt with shows a slight decrease on the previous year, *i,e.* 6,850 as against 8,736 in 1959.

One is pleased to record that 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered in the area has been maintained, the Inspectors making 1,039 visits in the process.

The quality of the meat has remained excellent and reflects the better class of trade now carried out in the area.

The success of the Ministry of Agriculture's eradication scheme for tuberculosis is reflected in a decrease in the incidence of the disease met with in the slaughterhouse. A Table is appended below which indicates clearly the improvement which has been effected during the past five years. (Table 8).

TABLE 8

SUMMARY OF CARCASES AND ORGANS CONDEMNED FOR TUBERCULOSIS
for years 1955-60

YEAR	CATTLE				COWS				CALVES				PIGS				SOWS			
	Total Kill	Whole carcases con-demned	Parts	%	Total Kill	Whole carcases con-demned	Parts	%	Total Kill	Whole carcases con-demned	Parts	%	Total Kill	Whole carcases con-demned	Parts	%	Total Kill	Whole carcases con-demned	Parts	
1955	751	2	36	5.05	38	1	1	5.2	10	1	—	10.0	2,758	—	134	4.7	51	—	1	1.96
1956	1,043	1	33	3.2	33	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	3,037	1	67	2.3	31	—	2	6.4
1957	1,036	1	35	3.4	47	—	—	—	56	—	—	—	2,649	—	20	0.75	13	—	—	—
1958	1,139	3	51	4.7	36	—	—	—	58	—	—	—	3,483	—	48	1.35	32	—	—	—
1959	1,039	—	11	1.05	53	—	—	—	70	—	—	—	3,219	—	25	0.77	22	—	—	—
1960	933	—	3	0.32	46	1	—	2.17	47	—	—	—	2,395	—	21	0.88	41	—	—	—

It is now so rarely that Tuberculosis is encountered in pigs that any carcase or organ suspected of infection is notified to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector after specimens have been examined at the Veterinary Centre in Cambridge. Thorough investigation on the farm is then undertaken in an effort to trace the source of the infection.

The incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* found has shown a slight decrease—the figure being 4.5% for 1960. This is still high in relation to the national average of approximately 2.5% and credit is due to the Inspectors for their vigilance. When a single non-viable cyst is found the carcase is jointed in the presence of the Inspector before any decision is made regarding refrigeration or otherwise. In this way spoilation of the carcase is kept to a minimum.

There is still little evidence available of the incidence of Taenia Saginata in man and there is scope for further research into this aspect with a view to imposing an additional break in the life cycle of the parasite other than the somewhat problematical one afforded by meat inspection.

Full advantage is taken of the facilities offered by Public Health Laboratories and the Veterinary Centre at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the bacteriological examination of specimens etc., and their assistance is gratefully acknowledged. Specimens from 15 casualty animals were submitted during the year and three were found to have pathogens present (20%). This compares with 40% in 1959.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS 1933-58

Licences to slaughter renewed	21
New Licences issued	Nil
Total on Register 31.12.60	21

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations are complied with in all licensed premises in the area—special attention being given to the feeding and watering of cattle awaiting slaughter. Excellent lairage facilities will form an important feature of the three slaughterhouses retained after the " appointed day."

Once again it will be noted that no new slaughtermen's licences were issued and little, if any, training of potential slaughtermen is being undertaken. No horse slaughtering occurs in the District.

UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS

Apart from the meat condemned as unfit in the slaughterhouses very little unfit foodstuffs is encountered nowadays. To a large extent this is due to improved methods of processing, pre-packing, transporting and storage aided by refrigerated display counters, deep freeze cabinets and a much wider use of refrigeration generally.

Occasionally one encounters the " foreign body " in some prepacked goods, together with an odd complaint or two of stale or mouldy goods due to insufficient turnover of stock but seldom can these incidents be traced to gross negligence. Each case is fully investigated and the public receive every encouragement to report such incidents.

Full advantage is taken of the facilities offered by the Public Analyst and the Public Health Laboratories in this connection.

Sixty-two visits were made to various food premises for the purpose of sampling or special investigation apart from those reported elsewhere *e.g.* milk supplies.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.12.60

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	153	86	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	31	23	2	—
Total	188	112	3	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Referred		
(1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	—	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	3	—	3	—

OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

	Section 110			Section 111		
Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel Making etc.	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cleaning and Washing	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Department's main function is to secure satisfactory sanitary accommodation in factories since the majority of the health and safety measures are dealt with by Her Majesty's Inspectors. The Surveyor remains responsible for means of escape in case of fire (Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act 1937). Consequently although it has not been possible to devote as much time as one would wish to this aspect of the work no serious problems arose during the year. Having once secured good toilet facilities only occasional routine visits are necessary to ensure adequate cleanliness.

The division of responsibility contained in the Factories Act and the more recent Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 does not encourage any real enthusiasm in this field.

[illegible]